

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01 EUR-25 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 SSO-00

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P 221808Z MAR 74

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 185

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JEC PARIS 7182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VN, PINT

SUBJECT: GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 45TH PLENARY SESSION

MARCH 22, 1974

REF: USDEL JEC PARIS 11449

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. A "NEW" PRG SIX-POINT PLAN,
VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THAT PRESENTED LAST APRIL 25,
TOOK UP THE SESSION. DURING AN UNUSUALLY LENGTHY
DISCUSSION PERIOD THI (PRG) DECLINED TO ELABORATE
UPON ANY OF THE POINTS BUT STOOD FAST UPON HIS
WRITTEN PRESENTATION. THE GVN (PHONG) HAD RENEWED
ITS OFFER OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT LEADING TO
ELECTIONS JULY 20 AND CALLED AGAIN FOR INFORMAL
CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. IT WAS AGREED TO
REVOLVE MARCH 29. PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE
"NEW" PRG PROPOSALS INCLUDED A POST-SESSION PRESS
CONFERENCE (MATCHED BY ONE HELD BY THE GVN) AND
STATEMENTS ENDORSING THE PLAN ISSUED BY TWO EX-
MINISTERS, "THIRD FORCE" LEADERS MINH AND CHAU.
END SUMMARY.

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2. THE PRG ("AMBASSADOR" THI, ACTING CHIEF OF DEL)

PRESENTED ITS MUCH-VAUNTED STATEMENT IN SIX POINTS PURPORTING TO CONSTITUTE A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF POLITICO-MILITARY ISSUES. THE PROPOSAL CALLED FOR:

(1) IMMEDIATE PROCLAMATION AND APPLICATION OF A CEASEFIRE;

(2) RETURN OF ALL CAPTURED AND DETAINED PERSONNEL BY JUNE 30;

(3) IMMEDIATE GUARANTEE OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES;

(4) FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD (NCNRC) WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE CEASEFIRE GOES INTO EFFECT, WHILE BEFOREHAND IN JOINT OR SEPARATE DECLARATIONS BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE INDICATED THEIR READINESS TO UNDERTAKE CONSULATTIONS WITH THE "THIRD FORCE";

(5) GENERAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER FORMATION OF THE NCNRC;

(6) BOTH SIDES "TO REACH AGREEMENT ON APPROPRIATE REDUCTION OF MILITARY FORCES AND DEMOBILIZATION OF SUCH REDUCTIONS".

3. PHONG (ACTING CHIEF, GVNDEL) CALLED FOR "A MORE DIRECT DIALOGE " WITH THE PRG THROUGH LESS FORMAL ENCOUNTERS THAN THE PRESENT LA CELLE ST. CLOUD PLENARIES AFFORDED. THE REST OF HIS PREPARED REMARKS CONSISTED OF REAFFIRMATION OF THE GVN PROPOSALS OF JANUARY 25, WHICH WOULD CULMINATE IN GENERAL ELECTIONS JULY 20.

4. IN AN UNUSUALLY LONG PERIOD OF IMPROMPTU DIALOGUE PHONG ATTEMPTED TO DISSECT THE "NEW" PRG "PACKAGE DEAL". PHONG POINTED OUT THAT THE PRG HAD TAKEN ITS APRIL 25, 1973 SIX POINTS (REFTEL IN EXACTLY THE SAME ORDER AND HAD ONLY ADDED TWO SPECIFICS: THE TARGET DATES FOR NCNRC FORMATION AND THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS. BESIDES PROTESTING THAT THE PROPOSED PRG PERIODS FOR COMPLETING POLITICAL EVOLUTION WERE CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN THE GVN ENVISAGED, PHONG COMPLAINED

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THAT THE PRG POINTS WERE "EXCEEDINGLY VAGUE". FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRG OFFERED NO CIRTERIA FOR DETERMINING WHO CONSTITUTED THE "THIRD FORCE", WHEREAS THE GVN PLAN CALLED FOR THE NCNRC "THIRD COMPONENT" TO BE DEISGNATED JOINTLY BY BOTH SVN PARTIES.

5. ON THE CEASEFIRE, PHONG REMINDED THI THAT

ONE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IN EFFECT, ND THE TASK WAS
TO MAKE IT AND THE INSTITUTIONS OVERSEEING IT
EFFECTIVE, NOT ESTABLISH ANEW, THIRD CEASEFIRE.
IN CLOSING A LONG ANALYSIS OF THE PRG PLAN PHONG
CHALLENGED THI TO RESPOND TO THE TVN REQUEST FOR
INFORMAL CONTACTS.

6. THI, RESPONDING HALTINGLY AND WITH UNEASINESS, ONLY
REITERATED PORTIONS OF HIS WRITTEN TEXT. HE
OFFERED NO JUSTIFICATIONS OR AMPLIFICATIONS OF THE
PRG PROPOSALS; AND MADE NO RESPONSE ON THE
QUESTION OF CONTACTS.

7. IT WAS AGREED TO RECONVENE MARCH 29.

8. BOTH SIDES HELD POST-SESSION PRESS CONFERENCES
AT WHICH LITTLE OF INTERRST EMERGED. THI DEFENDED
THE PRIORITY GIVEN BY THE PRG TO ESTABLISHING A
NEW CEASEFIRE ON THE GROUNDS THAT AN EFFECTIVE
CEASEFIRE REMAINED A FUNDAMENTAL, UNFULFILLED
PREREQUISITE FOR RESTORATION OF PEACE IN SVN.

9. "THIRD FORCE" FIGURES HO THONG MINH AND
NGUYEN HUU CHAU ISSUED A STATEMENT TODAY
SUPPORTING THE PRG PROPOSALS AND CALLING ON THE
GVN TO GIVE THEM SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AND TO
WORK WITH THE PRG TO ACCOMPLISH THE PLAN'S AIMS.
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